REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment is filed prior to initial review of the Application. Applicants respectfully request examination of all pending claims. Such examination at Examiner's earliest convenience is respectfully solicited.

VERSION SHOWING MARKED CHANGES TO THE APPLICATION

IN THE CLAIMS

1. A method of providing a desired set of service policies to each of a plurality of subscribers, said method comprising:

identifying a plurality of processing rules which provide a set of service policies desired by each subscriber;

configuring an internet service node with said processing rules corresponding to each of said subscribers;

receiving data in said internet service node;

determining in said internet service node a specific subscriber to whom said received data relates to; and

applying in said internet service node said plurality of processing rules related to said determined specific subscriber, wherein said applying is performed after said determining.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein said internet service node is provided as an edge device of an access network such the service policies can be controlled from the edge of said access network.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein said internet service node comprises an edge router.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein said internet service node comprises a plurality of processors, said determining and applying together comprises:

assigning each of said subscribers to a processor group, wherein each processor group is configured with the processing rules corresponding to assigned subscribers; and

forwarding data related to each subscriber to a corresponding processor group after said determining of specific subscriber.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein each processor group comprises a plurality of processors.

6. The method of claim 4, wherein data related to subscribers assigned to said processor group is assigned in a round-robin fashion among said plurality of processors.

7. The method of claim 4, wherein end systems of said plurality of subscribers generate data using internet protocol (IP).

8. The method of claim 7, wherein said data comprises ATM cells.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein said determining comprises examining data contained in said ATM cells, said determination of specific subscriber being based on the results of said examination and a port on which said ATM cells are received, wherein said port is comprised in said internet service node.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein said applying comprising:

deciding in said port the specific processor group to which said data is to be forwarded, wherein said specific processor group is decided based on said specific subscriber to whom said received data relates to; and

modifying the header of said cells to indicate said determined processor group such that the cells can be forwarded to an appropriate processor group based on examination of cell header, wherein said appropriate processor group is configured with the processing rules relate to said specific subscriber.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein said deciding is performed using a content addressable memory (CAM), said CAM containing a plurality of locations, each of said plurality of locations having a mask, a search field and an outfield field, said CAM being designed to receive an input value and compare said input value with data in said search field at bit positions

specified by said mask for each of said plurality of locations, said CM being designed to generate as output the data stored in said output field if there is a match with the corresponding location.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein the data stored in the output field of said CAM identifies an identifier of a processor group either directly or indirectly, and wherein each entry of said mask and search field are implemented to store data identifying a subscriber such that said identifier can be determined using said data stored in said output field.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein a portion of the header of said ATM cells is replaced with said identifier such that said ATM cells can be assigned to a processor group designed to process data related to said subscriber by examining said header.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein said identifier is stored in a virtual path identifier (VPI) or virtual channel identifier (VCI) field of said header.

15. The method of claim 12, wherein bytes 1, 7, 8, 10, and 13-20 of an IP header are provided as said input to said CAM.

16. The method of claim 13, wherein a switch fabric forwards said data to said processor group based on an examination of said header of said ATM cells.

17. The method of claim 13, further comprising:

storing a mapping of virtual path identifier/virtual channel identifier (VPI/VCI) and port number to a connection identifier in a virtual channel (VC) table, wherein each entry of said VC table further indicates whether the VPI/VCI of a received cell needs to be replaced, and

accessing an entry in said VC table corresponding to a received cell comprised in said received data,

wherein said header of said received cell is modified only if the data in said entry indicates that the VPI/VCI field is to be replaced.

18. The method of claim 17, further comprising:

setting the VCI cells forming said received data to said connection identifier;

generating a processor identifier or a processor group identifier using said output of said CAM; and

setting the VPI of said sequence of cells to said processor identifier or said processor group identifier;

wherein said switch fabric uses said VPI to forward said sequence of cells to one of said processors.

19. The method of claim 12, further comprising setting said mask of a location to examine at least some of the bit positions corresponding to an IP address, and said search field of said location to a plurality of IP addresses in combination with said mask, wherein at least some of said IP addresses are associated with said subscriber.

20. The method of claim 19, wherein each of said IP addresses comprises an IP source address.

21. The method of claim 19, wherein each of said IP addresses comprises an IP destination address.

22. The method of claim 19, further comprises:

maintaining an IP table mapping each of said plurality of IP addresses to a processor identifier or a processor group identifier; and

using bits in the masked positions of the IP address of said IP packet and said output of said CAM to retrieve said processor identifier or said processor group identifier,

wherein said sequence of cells are assigned to a processor identified by said processor identifier or said processor group identifier by said processor group identifier.

23. The method of claim 12, wherein said search field does not contain sufficient number of bits to store data identifying said subscriber, said method further comprising:

storing in a plurality of entries of said CAM data identifying said subscriber, wherein the output of said plurality of entries is examined in determining said processor identifier or processor group identifier.

24. The method of claim 23, wherein the output of one said plurality of entries is used as an input to another one of said plurality of entries of said CAM, wherein the output of said another of said plurality of entries identifies said processor identifier or processor group identifier.

25. The method of claim 23, wherein received data related to said subscriber is received using an L2TP tunnel.

26. The method of claim 25, further comprises:

providing bytes 1, 7, 8, 10, 13-15, and 17-20 of the IP packet contained in a first cell of said received data as a first input; and

providing bytes 23, 24, and 27-37 of the IP packet contained in said first cell as a second input.

27. A method of providing a desired set of service policies to each of a plurality of subscribers, said method comprising:

(a) providing an internet service node (ISN) as an edge router;

(b) specifying a desired set of service policies for each of said plurality of subscribers;

(c) translating each of said desired service policies into processing rules, wherein each processing rule comprises a classifier and an associated action, wherein said classifier identifies data flows to which said associated action is to be applied;

(d) configuring said ISN with said processing rules;

(e) receiving a plurality of bit groups from a subscriber comprised in said plurality of subscribers;

(f) generating a plurality of packets from data contained in said plurality of bit groups, wherein each of said plurality of packets can be associated with a data flow generated by an application of said subscriber;

(g) determining a data flow to which each of said plurality of packets relates to; and

(h) applying said actions associated with classifiers matching said data flow determined in (g),

whereby each of said plurality of subscribers are provided said corresponding desired set of service policies.

28. The method of claim 27, wherein end systems of said plurality of subscribers generate data using internet protocol (IP) and (f) comprises generating a plurality of IP packets.

29. The method of claim 28, wherein said bit groups comprise ATM cells, and wherein said plurality of packets are generated from said ATM cells.

30. The method of claim 28, further comprising maintain a state for one of said plurality of service policies, wherein said state enables multiple data flows to be processed to meet the service.

31. The method of claim 28, further comprising maintaining a state for each of said data flows, wherein the processing rules to be applied to packets of each flow is maintained in said state.

32. The method of claim 28, further comprising:

(i) monitoring control data flow of an application to determine the port number of a new data flow by an application; and

(j) generating a new processing rule using the determined port number.

33. The method of claim 27, further comprising:

(k) providing a plurality of processor groups, with each processor group containing a plurality of processors; and

(l) assigning each of said packets to one of said plurality of processor groups, wherein one of said plurality of processors in said assigned groups processes the assigned packets.

34. The method of claim 33, wherein all packets related to a subscriber are assigned to a single processor group.

35. The method of claim 34, further comprising assigning packets to individual processors in a round-robin fashion.

36. A method of assigning an internet protocol (IP) packet related to a subscriber to a processor in an internet service node (ISN), said ISN containing a plurality of processors, wherein said processor is capable of processing said IP packet to provide service policies desired for said subscriber, said method comprising:

(a) configuring a location of a content addressable memory (CAM), said CAM containing a plurality of locations including said location, each of said plurality of locations having a mask, a search field and an outfield field, said CAM being designed to receive an input value and compare said input value with data in said search field at bit positions specified by said mask for each of said plurality of locations, said CAM being designed to generate as output the data stored in said output field if there is a match with the corresponding location, said search field and said mask of said location being set to data identifying one or more processors suitable for processing data related to said subscriber;

(b) receiving said IP packet in the form of a sequence of cells including a first cell containing the header data of said IP packet;

(c) providing data in said first cell as said input value to said CAM;

(d) receiving as an output of said CAM the data stored in said output field of a location if the corresponding search field matches said input value at the bit positions specified by the corresponding mask; and

(e) assigning said sequence of cells to said one or more processors identified by said output received in (d),

whereby said IP packet is assigned to said one or more processors suitable for processing said IP packet if the data in said first cell matches data stored in said location at bit positions specified by said mask of said location.

37. The method of claim 36, wherein said data provided in (c) comprises bytes 1, 7, 8, 10, and 13-20 of said IP header.

38. The method of claim 36, wherein said output of (d) identifies a processor group suitable for processing said IP packet and said processor group includes said one or more processors assigned to in (e).

39. The method of claim 36, wherein a switch fabric forwards each cell to one of said one or more processors according to the cell header, and (e) comprises modifying the cell header of said sequence cells.

40. The method of claim 4, further comprising:

(f) storing a mapping of virtual path identifier/virtual channel identifier (VPI/VCI) and port number to a connection identifier in a virtual channel (VC) table, wherein each entry of said VC table further indicates whether the VPI/VCI of a received cell needs to be replaced;

(g) accessing an entry in said VC table corresponding to said first cell; and

(h) performing (c) - (e) only if said retrieved entry indicates that the VPI/VCI of said first cell needs to be replaced.

41. The method of claim 5, wherein (e) comprises:

(i) setting the VCI of said sequence of cells to said connection identifier;

(j) generating a processor identifier or a processor group identifier using said output of (d); and

(k) setting the VPI of said sequence of cells to said processor identifier or said processor group identifier,

wherein said switch fabric uses said VPI to forward said sequence of cells to one of said processors.

42. The method of claim 36, wherein (a) comprises a setting said mask of said location to examine at least some of the bit positions corresponding to an IP address, and said search field of said location to a plurality of IP addresses in combination with said mask, wherein at least some of said IP addresses are associated with said subscriber.

43. The method of claim 42, wherein each of said IP addresses comprises in IP destination address.

44. The method of claim 43, wherein each of said IP addresses comprises an IP destination address.

45. The method of claim 42, said method further comprises:

(l) maintaining an IP table mapping each of said plurality of IP addresses to a processor identifier or a processor group identifier; and

(m) using bits in the masked positions of the IP address of said IP packet and said output of (e) to retrieve said processor identifier or said processor group identifier, wherein said processor group comprises a plurality of processors,

46. The method of claim 36, wherein said search field does not contain sufficient number of bits to store data identifying said subscriber, said method further comprising:

(n) storing said data and corresponding masks identifying said subscriber in more than one of said locations;

(o) providing different portions of said data as different inputs to said CAM, wherein said input of (c) is provided last; and

(p) using said output of (d) to identify said processor or processor group for processing only if matches exist for all of said different inputs.

47. The method of claim 46, wherein subscriber data is received using an L2TP tunnel.

48. The method of claim 46, wherein (n) comprises:

(q) providing bytes 1, 7, 8, 10, 13-15, and 17-20 of the IP packet contained in said first cell as a first input; and

(r) providing bytes 23, 24, and 27-37 of the IP packet contained in said first cell as a second input.

49. A method of assigning a cell to one of a plurality of processors comprised in an internet service node (ISN), said method comprising:

(a) configuring a content addressable memory (CAM) comprising a plurality of locations, each of said plurality of locations having a mask, a search field and an outfield field, said CAM being designed to receive an input value and compare said input value with data in said search field at bit positions specified by said mask for each of said plurality of locations,

said search field, said mask and said output field of a first location comprised in said plurality of locations being configured with first a first search value, a first mask value and a first output value respectively, said search field, said mask and said output field of a second location comprised in said plurality of locations being configured with a second search value, a second mask and a second output value respectively,

wherein said first search value, said first mask value and said first output value are not equal to said second search value, said second mask and said second output value respectively and wherein said first output value and said second output value contain data identifying one or more processors comprised in said plurality of processors;

(b) receiving said cell in said ISN;

(c) providing data in said first cell as said input value to said CAM;

(d) receiving as an output of said CAM the data stored in said output field of a location if the corresponding search field matches said input value at the bit positions specified by the corresponding mask; and

(e) assigning said cell to a processor identified by said output received in (d).

50. The method of claim 49, wherein said cells is a header cell of a sequence of cells forming a packet, said method further comprising assigning all of said sequence of cells to said processor.

51. An internet service node (ISN) for providing a desired set of service policies desired by each of a plurality of subscribers, said ISN comprising:

a plurality of processors, wherein each of said plurality of subscribers is assigned to a subset of said plurality of processors, wherein said subset of said processor is configured with processing rules which provide a set of service policies desired by said corresponding subscriber;

a port coupled to receive data related to one of said plurality of subscribers, said port determining a subset of processors which are designed to process data related to said one of said plurality of subscribers; and

a switch fabric coupled to said plurality of processors and said port, wherein said switch fabric receives said data from said port and forwards said data to said subset of processors according to the determination of said port.

52. The ISN of claim 51, wherein each of said set of said plurality of processors is provided as a processor group in a packet service card, wherein said packet service card contains a plurality of processor groups, and wherein said ISN contains a plurality of packet service cards.

53. The ISN of claim 51, wherein said port receives said data as a sequence of ATM cells.

54. The ISN of claim 53, wherein said port determines an identifier of said subset of processors and sends said identifier to said switch fabric, wherein said switch fabric assigns said ATM cells to said subset of processors based on said identifier.

55. The ISN of claim 54, wherein said port modifies a header of each of said ATM cells to include said identifier in said header such that said switch fabric can forward said ATM cells to said subset of processors by examining said header.

56. The ISN of claim 55, wherein said port comprises:

a framer to receive said data related to said one of said plurality of subscribers;

a content addressable memory (CAM) containing a plurality of locations, each of said plurality of locations having a mask, a search field and an outfield field, said CAM being designed to receive an input value and compare said input value with data in said search field at bit positions specified by said mask for each of said plurality of locations, said CAM being designed to generate as output the data stored in said output field if there is a match with the corresponding locations, wherein the data stored in the output field of said CAM identifies an identifier of a processor group either directly or indirectly, and wherein each entry of said mask and search field are implemented to store data identifying a subscriber such that said identifier can be determined using said data stored in said output field; and

an assignment logic coupled to said CAM and said framer, said assignment logic determining said identifier by providing the received data as an input to said CAM, said assignment logic including said identifier in said header.

57. The ISN of claim 56, wherein said identifier is stored in a virtual path identifier (VPI) or virtual channel identifier (VCI) field of said header.

58. The ISN of claim 57, wherein said sequence of cells contain an Internet Protocol (IP) packet, and said assignment logic provides bytes 1, 7, 8, 10, and 13-20 of an IP header as said input to said CAM.

59. The ISN of claim 57, further comprising:

a virtual channel table storing a mapping of virtual path identifier/virtual channel identifier (VPI/VCI) and port number to a connection identifier, wherein each entry of said VC table further indicates whether the VPI/VCI of a received cell needs to be replaced, wherein said assignment logic accesses an entry in said VC table corresponding to a received cell comprised in said received data, and modifies said header only if data in said entry indicates that the VPI/VCI field is to be replaced.

60. The ISN of claim 59, wherein said assignment logic sets the VCI of cells forming said received data to said connection identifier and said VPI of said cells to said identifier.

61. The ISN of claim 56, wherein said search field does not contain sufficient number of bits to store data identifying said subscriber, and wherein said CAM is designed to store in a plurality of entries data identifying said subscriber, wherein said assignment logic examines the output of said plurality of entries in determining said identifier.

62. The ISN of claim 61, wherein said assignment logic uses the output of one of said plurality of entries as an input to another one of said plurality of entries, wherein the output of said another of said plurality of entries identifies said processor identifier or processor group identifier.

63. The ISN of claim 61, wherein data related to said subscriber is received using an L2TP tunnel.

64. The ISN of claim 62, wherein said assignment logic is designed to provide bytes 1, 7, 8, 10, 13-15, and 17-20 of the IP packet contained in a first cell of said received data as a first input, and bytes 23, 24, and 27-37 of the IP packet contained in said first cell as a second input.

65. An internet service node (ISN) for providing a desired set of service policies desired by each of a plurality of subscribers, said ISN comprising:

an access port to receive a plurality of bit groups related to a subscriber comprised in said plurality of subscribers;

a switch fabric coupled to said access port, said switch fabric to receive said plurality of bit groups and generating a plurality of packets, wherein said plurality of packets contain the data generated from applications related to said subscriber, wherein each of said plurality of packets contains sufficient data to be identified with a data flow generated by said applications related to said subscriber;

a packet service card to receive said plurality of packets, said packet service card processing each of said packets according to a plurality of processing rules related to said subscriber,

wherein each of said plurality of processing rules contain a classifier and an associated action, said classifier identifying at least one data flow to which said associated action is to be applied,

a trunk port coupled to said switch fabric, said trunk port for transmitting any of said plurality of packets desired to be transmitted,

wherein providing a corresponding plurality of processing rules to each of said plurality of subscribers enables said ISN to provide said desired set of service for each of said plurality of subscribers.

66. The ISN of claim 65, wherein said plurality of packets comprise Internet Protocol (IP) packets.

67. The ISN of claim 66, wherein each of said data flows is identified by source IP address, destination IP address, protocol type, source port number and destination port number.

68. The ISN of claim 67, further comprising an interface for enabling a manager to provide said desired set of service policies, and wherein said ISN is designed to generate at least some of the said processing rules based on said desired set of service policies provided by said manager.

69. The ISN of claim 68, wherein said packet service card is designed to monitor control data flows of an application to determine the parameters values identifying said data flows of said application if said parameter values are not available beforehand.

70. The ISN of claim 65, wherein said packet service card comprises a plurality of processors, wherein said plurality of processors enable said ISN to process said plurality of packets quickly.

71. The ISN of claim 70, wherein said plurality of processors are provided in a separate physical unit from said access port to said trunk port, wherein the separation enables the number of processors to be changed independent of the number of access ports and trunk ports.

72. The ISN of claim 70, wherein a state is maintained for each of said processing flows, wherein said state indicates the processing rules to be applied to each of said plurality of packets related to the corresponding flow.

73. (Amended) The ISN of claim 65, wherein said bit groups comprise ATM cells such that said switch fabric is designed to convert to generate each of said packets from the payload in a plurality [pf] of ATM cells.

74. The ISN of claim 65, wherein said bit groups comprise contain sufficient data to be identified with a data flow generated by said applications related to said subscriber such that each of said packets is generated from one of said bit groups.

75. The ISN of claim 65, further comprising a random access memory (RAM), wherein said processor interface stores said plurality of bit groups in said RAM.

76. An internet service node (ISN) for processing a packet comprising a sequence of cells including a header cell, said ISN comprising:

a plurality of processors;

a content addressable memory (CAM) containing a plurality of locations, each of said plurality of locations having a mask, a search field and an outfield field, said CAM being designed to receive an input value and compare said input value with data in said search field at bit positions specified by said mask for each of said plurality of locations, said CAM being designed to generate as output the data stored in said output field if there is a match with the corresponding location, said search field and said mask of said location being configured with data identifying packets suitable for processing by one or more of said plurality of processors,

said output field being configured with data identifying one or more processors suitable for processing a corresponding packet; and

an assignment logic to receive said header cell and providing data from said header cell as said input value of said CAM, whereby the output of said CAM identifies one or more processors suitable for processing said packet, said assignment logic assigning all of said sequence of cells to said one or more processors according to said output of said CAM,

wherein said packet is processed by a suitable processor.

77. The ISN of claim 76, wherein said assignment logic is designed to assign said sequence of cells by setting at least a portion of the cell header of each cell to said identifier, said ISN further comprising a switch fabric which forwards said sequence of cells to processors according to cell headers.

78. The ISN of claim 77, wherein said ISN receives packets related to a plurality of subscribers, and wherein the mask and search fields of each location are configured to identify a subscriber, and wherein the corresponding output field is designed to identify one or more of said processors suitable for processing packets related to the subscriber identified by the corresponding mask field and search field.

79. The ISN of claim 78, wherein said packet comprises an IP packet.

80. The ISN of claim 79, wherein said mask of a location is configured for examination of at least some of the bit positions corresponding to an IP address, and said search field of said location to a plurality of IP addresses in combination with said mask, wherein at least some of said IP addresses are associated with said subscriber.

81. The ISN of claim 80, wherein each of said IP addresses comprises an IP source address.

82. The ISN of claim 80, wherein each of said IP addresses comprises an IP destination address.

83. The ISN of claim 80, further comprising a memory for storing an IP table mapping each of said plurality of IP addresses to a processor identifier or a processor identifier or a processor group identifier, wherein said assignment logic is designed to use bits in the masked positions of the IP address and the output of said CAM to retrieve said identifier, wherein said sequence of cells are assigned to one or more processors according to said identifier.

84. The ISN of claim 79, wherein said search field does not contain sufficient number of bits to store data identifying each subscriber, and wherein said CAM is configured to store said data and corresponding masks identifying said subscriber in more than one of said locations, and wherein said assignment logic is designed to send different portions of said data as different inputs to said CAM, wherein said assignment logic determines that said packet relates to a subscriber only upon a match for all of said inputs.

85. The ISN of claim 84, wherein said assignment logic is designed to provide bytes 1, 7, 8, 10, 13-15, and 17-20 of the IP packet contained in said header cell as a first input, and bytes 23, 24, 27-37 of the IP packet contained in said header cell as a second input.

86. The ISN of claim 78, further comprising a service manager which configures said CAM to cause packets related to said subscriber to said one or more of said processors, wherein said service manager further configures said one or more processors with processing rules suitable for processing said packets related to said subscriber.

87. The ISN of claim 86, further comprising an access port, wherein said access port contains said CAM and said assignment logic.

88. The ISN of claim 86, further comprising a trunk port, wherein said trunk port contains said CAM and said assignment logic.

89. An internet service node (ISN) providing a desired set of service policies to each of a plurality of subscribers, said ISN comprising:

identifying means for identifying a plurality of processing rules which provide a set of service policies desired by each subscriber;

configuration means for configuring an internet service node with said processing rules corresponding to each of said subscribers;

receiving means for receiving data in said internet service node;

determination means for determining in said internet service node a specific subscriber to whom said received data relates to; and

applying means for applying in said internet service node said plurality of processing rules related to said determine specific subscriber, wherein said applying is performed after said determining.

90. The ISN of claim 89, wherein said internet service node is provided as an edge device of an access network such the service policies can be controlled from the edge of said access network.

91. The ISN of claim 89, wherein said ISN comprises a plurality of processors, said determination means and applying means together comprise:

assignment means for assigning each of said subscribers to a processor group, wherein each processor group is configured with the processing rules corresponding to the assigned subscribers; and

forwarding means for forwarding data related to each subscriber to a corresponding processor group after said determining of specific subscriber.

92. The ISN of claim 91, wherein end systems of said plurality of subscribers generate data using internet protocol (IP).

93. The ISN of claim 92, wherein said data comprises ATM cells.

94. The ISN of claim 93, wherein said assignment means comprises examination means for examining data contained in said ATM cells, said determination of specific subscriber being based on the results of said examination and a port on which said ATM cells are received, wherein said port is contained in said internet service node.

95. The ISN of claim 94, wherein said assignment means further comprises modifying means for modifying the header of said cells to indicate said determined processor group such that the cells can be forwarded to an appropriate processor group based on examination of cell header, wherein said appropriate processor group is configured with the processing rules related to said specific subscriber.

96. (New) An internet service node (ISN), comprising:

a switch fabric to receive a plurality of bit groups and to generate a plurality of packets from data contained in the plurality of bit groups; and

a packet service card to receive and process the plurality of packets in accordance with a plurality of processing rules, each of the plurality of processing rules including a classifier identifying a data flow and an action to apply a policing service policy to packets associated with the data flow identified by the classifier, the classifier including a time field to specify a time of day during which the policing service policy should be applied.

97. (New) The internet service node of claim 96, wherein the policing service policy is a prioritization policy to prioritize available bandwidth.

98. (New) The internet service node of claim 96, wherein the policing service policy is an allocation policy to allocate available bandwidth.

99. (New) The internet service node of claim 96, wherein the action included in each of the plurality of processing rules further includes a security service policy.

100. (New) A method comprising:

specifying a service policy for a subscriber;

translating the service policy into processing rules, each of the processing rules including a classifier and an action, the classifier identifying a data flow, and the action implementing a policing service policy, the classifier including a time field to specify a time of day during which the policing service policy should be applied; and

processing incoming data in accordance with the processing rules.

101. (New) The method of claim 100, wherein translating the service policy into processing rules comprises specifying a prioritization policy to prioritize available bandwidth as part of the policing service policy of each of the processing rules.

102. (New) The method of claim 100, wherein translating the service policy into processing rules comprises specifying an allocation policy to allocate available bandwidth as part of the policing service policy of each of the processing rules.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants contend that the pending claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request the Examiner to reexamine these claims. Allowance of these claims at Examiner's earliest convenience is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on: March 18, 2002.

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